Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

April 1992

Founder Tours Australia and New Zealand

The Gay and Lesbian Marching Band performed at the blessing of the Mardi Gras at MCC Sydney.

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder and moderator of UFMCC, made a three-week tour of New Zealand and Australia in late February and early March. "It was one of my most productive trips," he said.

Rev. Perry was visiting New Zealand for the first time since 1984. He preached in MCC Auckland and visited MCC House, a halfway house run by the Auckland church. While Rev. Richard Mickley was pastor of the Auckland church, he read an article in a newspaper that offered guaranteed loans from the New Zealand government to groups that were willing to open halfway houses. The New Zealand government guaranteed a loan for the Auckland Church of (NZ) $360,000. The house is certified to house 15 clients. It is the only halfway house that specifically deals with gays and transgenders in New Zealand.

Mr. David Teggert, Coordinator of Church Extension for New Zealand, flew with Rev. Perry to Christchurch on the south island of New Zealand to visit the work there. Rev. Perry was met by Mr. Ken Batt, pastoral leader, and his lover, Rae. A member of MCC Christchurch welcomed Rev. Perry with a moving testimony as the call to worship. (The testimony is printed on page 5.)

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General Council Focuses on Goals and Programs

Programs and long-range goals were the focus of the UFMCC General Council meeting held in Los Angeles, CA, March 12-17.

The meeting opened with prayer and the lighting of the Candle of Remembrance as General Council members lifted up the names of those who have passed since the last meeting.

The council spent all day Saturday hearing reports from the 11 Fellowship programs and discussing the council's tentative long-range goals with them. (An in-depth summary of the program reports will be published in the May issue of *Keeping in Touch*.)

Program heads and program staff also met as a group in a spirit of cooperation and proposed setting aside time before each March General Council meeting for programmers to discuss common concerns. The council voted to affirm the plan for an annual programmers' meeting.

"I was impressed by the collegial spirit at the program meetings. We will look back on this meeting someday and see that it defined a new commitment to quality service," said Rev. Elder Don Eastman, chair of the Program and Budget Division.

Another significant program development was the resignation of Rev. La Paula Turner as executive director of the Department of People of Color (DPOC). Mr. Bernard Barbour of Houston, TX, was appointed interim executive director of DPOC.

The council dealt with several important issues by passing motions in first reading. Topics covered by these mo-

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May God Bless You Abundantly This Easter
as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Sovereign Jesus Christ!

Easter Season Brings New Life

An Easter Message

From Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Founder of UFMCC

It is that wonderful time of the year when we celebrate Easter and remember again the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. It is a time to remember what God said in the Hebrew Scriptures: "I set before you life and death. Choose life."

It is so important to remember that it is declared in the Christian Scriptures that "Death will be swallowed up in victory." Scripture tells us that it is Jesus Christ who has abolished death.

Through the resurrection we know that we can, with all confidence, look forward to life everlasting. ❐

EXCEL Goes to Mexico on Easter

Two busloads of Mexican MCCers plan to attend the first EXCEL International weekend to be held in Mexico in five years.

An EXCEL (Exercise in Christian Community Living) Team from Houston, TX, will lead the bilingual event over Easter weekend, April 17-19, at a hacienda near Guadalajara.

Ms. Brenda Blizzard, EXCEL International executive director, and Rev. Tomas Garcia, church extension coordinator for Mexico and Central America, both expressed their excitement about this activity.

EXCEL International is a lay-oriented Christian spiritual renewal program within UFMCC. It is rooted in the Cursillo movement begun in Spain in 1949. ❐

Abuse Survivors Sought

Rev. Dusty Pruitt, pastor of MCC Long Beach, CA, is gathering material for a book containing stories of adults who were abused as children by religious people. The purpose of the book is to expose the hypocrisy of the authoritarian church in scapegoating women and gay men/lesbians in matters of sexual abuse, and help other survivors come out. If you or someone you know would be willing to talk with her, please call her at (310) 432-3641. ❐

Tell Us Your Story

UFMCC has built gay and lesbian pride in the lives of countless people.

Now *Keeping in Touch* is asking its readers to share their own experiences. Please send in stories ranging from 250-500 words that answer the question: "Tell about a time when you experienced lesbian and gay pride through UFMCC." The stories should be typed and mailed to *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Stories must be received by May 15.

Keeping in Touch wants to pass on lesbian and gay pride by printing these stories from members and friends in a special section in the June issue.

Many lesbian and gay communities around the world, including many UFMCC churches, celebrate gay and lesbian pride and freedom in June with special events marking the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. In 1969, lesbians and gay men resisted police harassment at the Stonewall bar in New York City, a landmark in the modern gay/lesbian liberation movement. ❐

Northwest District Coordinator Resigns Position

Rev. Ed Sherriff resigned as Northwest District Coordinator effective May 1 due to health reasons.

He has accepted a new position with River City MCC in Sacramento, CA, as director of its new Samaritan Center.

As prescribed by the district's bylaws, the Region A Assistant District Coordinator, Mr. Chuck Harvey of Portland, OR, will serve as Acting District Coordinator until District Conference May 15-17. A new District Coordinator will then be elected for the unexpired term.

Rev. Sherriff served as District Coordinator since 1987. "No group of people could have been more supportive of me," he wrote in his Feb. 7 resignation letter. "I question if I will ever feel as close to a church family as I have to this district." ❐

Financial Advances Made

When the UFMCC General Council acted in 1991 to set minimum pastoral salary expectations for chartered churches (namely the average annual salary for that local area), there was only one church in the Northeast District meeting this salary expectation, MCC New Haven, CT. Now in 1992 there are two others, MCC New York, NY, and Morning Star MCC of Cherry Valley, MA. The District praises God that its churches are moving ahead financially despite the recession. ❐

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.

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Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator
Mr. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration
Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Editor

Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

General Council Makes Plans for Quality

Ms. JoNee Shelton, right, makes the Commission on Laity Report to General Council in March.

(cont'd from page 1)

tions include advertising in *Keeping in Touch*, conference voting rights, equal representation and other matters. The General Council is seeking input on these motions, which are printed in full in the article at right.

After worship on Sunday, General Council discussed and passed a motion to "continue to deal with the hard issues that are holding us back from becoming the church God is calling us to be." Each issue will be addressed at two successive council meetings. Issues suggested in the motion included internalized homophobia, post-traumatic stress (especially that relating to sexual abuse), sexism, cultural diversity and "the fear of spiritual and theological diversity in our denomination."

Other highlights of the General Council meeting are:

The International Concerns, Research and Development (ICRD) Division began designing a strategic plan to fulfill the goal of having General Conference 1997 in Australia. The ICRD also reviews and considered letters received about the General Council's tentative long-range goals. Additional responses are still desired by the council.

The Rev. Donald Pederson, Southwest District Coordinator, was named by the Moderator as the new Chair of the Communications, Policy and Review Division. He succeeds Mr. Adam DeBaugh, Mid-Atlantic District Coordinator, who is retiring after almost nine years of service. This was his last meeting.

The Communications, Policy and Review Division is working on a comprehensive parliamentary procedures manual, in response to a General Conference resolution, and is working on a review of the Fellowship's Conflict of Interest Policy.

The Council also passed a motion celebrating the calling of the Rev. Jane Spahr as the first openly lesbian or gay pastor of a Presbyterian Church by Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY.

The Program and Budget Division began work on a system to monitor and evaluate Fellowship programs. Significant steps were taken to strengthen Samaritan College financially. Mr. DeBaugh was appointed Chair of a study committee on Equality and Justice by the Elders.

Rev. Wendy Foxworth, pastor of MCC Austin, TX, was appointed as Chair of the Elder's Task Force on Systems and Structures, following the resignation of Rev. David Farrell for health reasons.

Rev. Ed Sherriff was not at the meeting since he has resigned as Northwest District Coordinator. The Rev. Jeff Pulling, Northeast District Coordinator, and Elder Larry Rodriguez were only able to join the council for part of the meeting due to secular work schedules. The Rev. Bonnie Daniel, Mid-Central District Coordinator, had to leave the council meeting early in order to attend her father's funeral. She left with the love, condolences and support of the entire council. ❐

Correction

The Top Twenty Per Capita list for January 1992 inadvertently included as Number 12 a church that is still in the process of applying for New Work status, and omitted MCC Dayton Parish in Dayton, OH, which should have been listed as Number 20 with a tithe of $15.61. ❐

Give Input on First Readings

The General Council invites UFMCC members to give their input on how the following policies or procedures might effect them. The motions below have been passed by the General Council as First Readings, and will be submitted for final adoption as Second Readings at the March 1992 Council meeting. Please submit any written responses to the Clerk of the General Council through the Fellowship Offices by Sept. 15, 1992.

▼ 92.03.CP.04 - First Reading: Moved that in order to better reflect the inclusive nature of our Fellowship each appointing body or individual shall monitor the composition of the body to which appointment is being made. The following information will be taken into account as we attempt to ensure balance and equal representation on Fellowship programs; which should include, but not be limited to: a) Gender (showing the truth that in Christ there is no male or female); b) Age (benefiting from the perspectives of our young people and our seniors); c) Country of Residence (reflecting that we are an international Fellowship); d) Race/Ethnicity (acknowledging the great contribution of people of color as well as white people to our church); e) Sexual Orientation (recognizing that MCC welcomes non-gays and bisexuals, as well as gays and lesbians); f) Physically challenged (so that we are not erecting further barriers to God's people); g) District (providing balance and perspective from our entire Fellowship); h) Status of the Church in which they hold membership (recognizing that New Works, Commissioned and Chartered Churches all have important perspectives

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First Australian Samaritan Students Graduate

By Rev. Cliff Connors

Australian Samaritan Education (ASE) held its inaugural graduation ceremony on Feb. 22, during the Australian District Conference in Sydney. This was also the first Samaritan graduating class outside the United States. The graduates who received a Bachelor of Ministries degree were Rev. Elder Willem Hein and Rev. John Fowler. Rev. Geoff Walker was unable to attend due to ill health and will receive his degree at an MCC service later in the year. Rev. Cliff Connors, Dean of ASE, received an honorary Master of Ministries degree in recognition of his work in establishing an promoting ASE.

Delighted by their new diplomas are, from left, Rev. Elder Willem Hein, Rev. Cliff Connors and Rev. John Fowler.

The keynote address was given by Rev. Elder Troy Perry who came to Australia as the guest of ASE. In his address, Rev. Perry challenged the graduates and those present to "Make the main thing the main thing" by sticking to the basics of the Gospel of Christ in their ministry. The graduation took place in the natural bushland setting of the Uniting Church's Centre for Ministry in Sydney. The chapel is characterized by Australian hardwoods, glass, and tapestries hand woven from Australian wools and cottons.

Guests included virtually all the UFMCC clergy and lay leaders from Australia and New Zealand, as well as Rev. Hein's mother, Rev. Connors' parents and specially invited guest Dr. Gordon Dicker, principal of the Centre for Ministry for the Uniting Church, and his wife, Ruth.

The academic procession was preceded by the processional cross which was carried by Mr. Rod Phillips (MCC Adelaide) who was elected onto the ASE Board of Trustees that day by the District Conference. In colleges and universities that have grown up in the English tradition, it is customary for the protector to the Chancellor to carry a mace before the procession of the Chancellor and Council. As ASE stands within the Christian tradition, we chose the Christian cross to precede us. This cross was made from Australian wood and was presented as a gift to ASE. The inset stained glass cross was a gift from Mr. Adam DeBaugh, District Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic District, USA. The entire work was fashioned by Mr. Warren Robertson of Adelaide. ❐

Founder Tours Australia and New Zealand

(cont'd from page 1)

Mr. Teggert mentioned to Rev. Perry after the service, "Now you know why we are going to have strong Metropolitan Community Churches all over this country."

The next stop on Rev. Perry's trip was Australia. On Saturday Rev. Perry was the Baccalaureate speaker for the first graduating class of Australian Samaritan Education (see article above). Rev. Perry preached the first Sunday in MCC Sydney where Rev. Gary Walker is pastor. More than 250 people attended the worship service. Rev. Perry did the annual blessing of the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, the largest gay and lesbian event in the world outside of the USA.

On Wednesday, Rev. Perry flew to Melbourne where he was met by Pastor John Fowler and taken first to visit AIDS patients in a local hospital. More than 100 people attended the Wednesday night service where Pastor Fowler received a special love offering for Rev. Perry to bring back to headquarters of (AUS) $500, to help open an AIDS clinic in Russia.

Rev. Perry flew back to Sydney the next morning to engage in a debate, televised live nationwide, on Australia's highest rated TV show, with Rev. Fred Niles, who is so conservative that he is known as the "Jerry Falwell of Australia." On Saturday approximately 400,000 people attended the Mardi Gras parade where all of the clergy in Sydney rode a float that was a popular success. "When we came along with our Gospel music, people couldn't stop dancing," said Rev. Greg Smith, Australian District Coordinator.

Rev. Perry ended his trip on Sunday night by preaching at MCC of the Good Shepherd, where Rev. Cliff Connors is the pastor. ❐

Rev'd. Michael Horn, left, and Rev. David Teggert at MCC House.

New Zealander Tells How MCC Saves Lives

The suicide of a 17-year-old gay teenager, Mr. Paul Perry, led to the founding of MCC Christchurch, New Zealand in 1989. This touching story was retold by a member of the church in the following testimony when Rev. Elder Troy Perry visited MCC Christchurch.

▼ ▼ ▼

The Founder and Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches Rev. Troy Perry, Honored Guests, I would like to welcome you to MCC Christchurch. As you read through your order of service, you will notice certain parts are in memory of people who are no longer with us. It may give the impression that we spend a lot of time in mourning.

MCC Christchurch is not about mourning, its about living. Our memorials are part of the spirit that makes the work we do here in Christchurch important. To us they are part of our family; part of us.

Without the church's support, I would have buried myself in a corner and died.

For me MCC became important when in 1989 I had to leave the comfortable middle-class life I had made for myself and face the fact that I was at the wrong place, at the wrong time, for the wrong reasons. I heard it said that people make a conscious decision concerning their sexuality. In 1989 I was making a conscious decision to face up to the truth about who I was, what I was, and I had to become responsible for my life. I had made the decision to leave my wife and children to become a better friend to my wife and a more honest father.

In times of crisis, most people turn away from God. I turned to God, I needed strength and hope for the future. God promised me I would be able to go to church openly as a Gay Christian. I contacted the Rev. Richard Mickley in Auckland and he in turn, passed my letter on to Ken Batt, our present Pastoral Leader.

At the same time, Ken had to face the death of a close friend, Paul Perry. The events around his death focused a life dream. Paul Perry had gone to his church and advised his pastor that he was gay and he wanted to go to church openly. The door was shut in his face. There was no room at the inn. His friends were all shut out of his funeral service. Ken and I met and started laying the foundation stones for MCC Christchurch.

On Oct. 1, 1989, a small group of people with tear-filled eyes went to church at 10 am like everyone else. Since then, MCC Christchurch has struggled financially but passion and spirituality have more than filled the coffers.

Carol Holy arrived, wheelchair and all, with a beaming smile and a feeling she was happy to be home. She filled the church with sunshine. She gave us her best, and we gave her and the church our best. Our concept is simple: EVERYONE IS WELCOME WITH OPEN ARMS. We have had glue sniffers, drug addicts; the list is endless. All are equal in God's eyes. We offer people understanding and acceptance. Charity is a lovely word; put your hand out, someone lines it with silver, and you are forgotten. People in this church are never forgotten, because everyone has contributed in making our church alive and special. We have even put flowers on the cenotaph on Anzac Day. (Editor's Note: Anzac Day, April 25, is a major holiday when New Zealand and Australia honor their veterans and war dead.)

Personally, it has been a hard two and a half years; I have fought many battles within and outside church. Human rights issues are top of my agenda; regardless of the cost of personal popularity. I have lost a well paid job because I was openly Gay. My work mates and employer couldn't comprehend that Gay people can live their lives openly, honestly, proudly and happy. Without the church's support, I would have buried myself in a corner and died. Instead, I put on my boxing gloves, and gave my employer a round or two that he would never forget. He boasted that I would lose my home; I am still there hanging on. He boasted that I would never get him to court; I did. I have been beaten up and sacked for being who I am. I may be a bit weather-beaten, but I am at home. I have found where I belong. Now, somehow, I have got to let the light shine. It's more important now than ever.

Our concept is simple: Everyone is welcome with open arms...we are here; we care, warts and all.

Last week, a 16-year-old and an 18-year-old decided that life was too painful to continue. My answer is: THERE IS A FAMILY HERE IN CHRISTCHURCH CALLED MCC. We are here; we care, warts and all. Our doors are open, just like they are all around the world, thanks to our honored guest, Rev. Troy Perry and his message from God. ❐

UFMCC Clergy Network by Computer

A number of UFMCC Clergy are networking with each other through the interactive computer service, Prodigy. Prodigy is a computer program which requires a modem, and allows a person to access a great variety of information, from headline news to an encyclopedia.

One of the services offered by Prodigy is "E-Mail" which allows a subscriber to write up to six pages to any other member listed. Among the UFMCC clergy who offer each other support through this service are the Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey, Rev. June Norris, Rev. Ken Caton, and Rev. Steve Pieters. If you have Prodigy on your computer, and wish to join this growing network of clergy support, write to Rev. June Norris on Prodigy, using her membership ID Number: NBHX46A. ❐

UFMCC Visible at Interseminary Conference

UFMCC was very visible at the Second National Interseminary Conference of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Seminarians held at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT, Feb. 14-16.

"I was there as a panelist and resource person, and met students from all over the country," said Rev. Jeffrey Pulling, Northeast District Coordinator. Other UFMCC representatives in the conference program were Rev. Jim Burns, pastor of MCC New Haven; Mr. James Bell, MCC New York member; and Rev. Darlene Garner, pastor of MCC of Northern Virginia.

The conference was coordinated by Ms. Anita Bradshaw, a Yale Divinity student and student clergy at MCC New Haven. ❐

Samaritan Seeks Resumes for Board of Trustees

Samaritan College is now accepting resumes for positions on its Board of Trustees. Gifts and skills in one or more of the following areas are required: (1) Legal expertise in educational and institutional law, fiduciary issues, deferred giving; (2) Financial expertise in budgeting, reporting, accounting; (3) Development expertise in investments, marketing strategy, fund-raising, public relations, real estate; and (4) Academic expertise in college-level teaching, structures and systems of academic institutions (accredited undergraduate/graduate) other than Samaritan College and library science.

Members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for a four year term. Send requests for application forms and an informational packet about Samaritan College to:

SAMARITAN COLLEGE
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 306
Los Angeles, CA 90029
ATTN: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

The deadline date for application requests is June 15, 1992.

The deadline date for return of completed application forms and resumes is July 1, 1992.

The newly appointed Board of Trustees will be trained Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 1992 in Los Angeles, CA. Prospective Board members MUST reserve these calendar dates. ❐

UFMCC Stands Up for Justice in Argentina

Rev. Roberto Gonzales has decided to challenge the Argentinian government over legal status for the UFMCC church in Buenos Aires.

Rev. Gonzales is church extension coordinator for South America and pastor of ICM Buenos Aires.

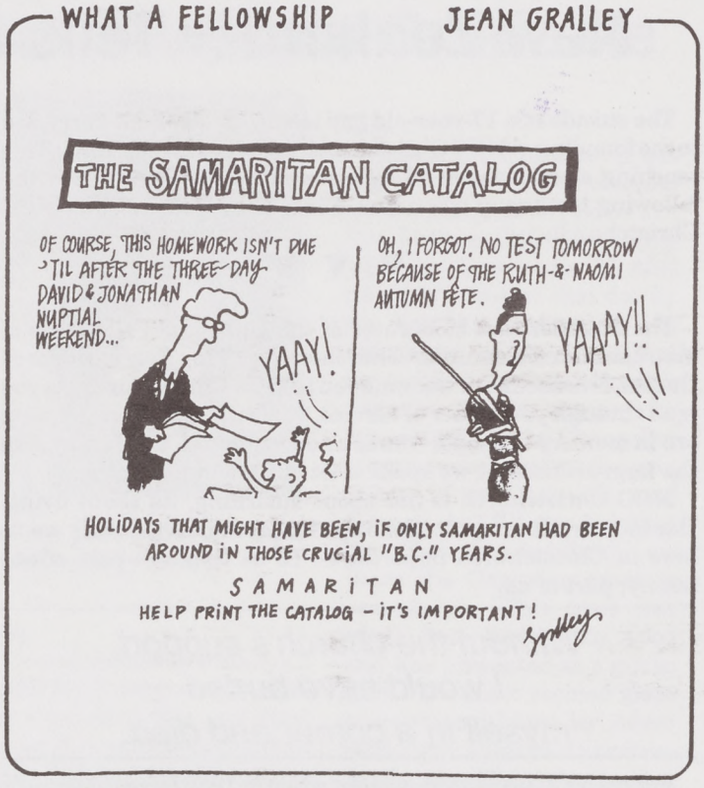
At the request of Rev. Gonzales, Rev. Elder Don Eastman wrote to an Argentinian official and the U.S. Ambassador to Argentina to express concern over the delay of nearly three years in dealing with the church's original request for legal status.

"We are deeply concerned that delay or denial in granting ICM (Buenos Aires) legal status represents a restriction of religious freedom and persecution of an unpopular social group which would constitute a grave violation of human rights," the letter said.

The Catholic Archbishop in Argentina issued inflammatory homophobic statements recently, prompting Rev. Gonzales and other groups to organize a demonstration in front of the cathedral March 5. On March 19, the Communidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA) received legal recognition from the executive branch of the Argentine government. In Mendoza (western Argentina) four gay people, including a prominent lawyer, were murdered during the past four months by a "Brigade of Morality." ❐

New Resource Catalog Available

Recently the 1992-93 UFMCC Church Services Resource Catalog was mailed to all UFMCC churches and clergy. Please consult it for the many resources that UFMCC offers. A new policy regarding shipping costs is introduced and the discounted rates for official new works and commissioned churches is continued. If you need a copy please contact the Fellowship Offices. ❐


WHAT A FELLOWSHIP
JEAN GRALLEY
THE SAMARITAN CATALOG
OF COURSE, THIS HOMEWORK ISN'T DUE 'TIL AFTER THE THREE-DAY DAVID & JONATHAN NUPTIAL WEEKEND...
YAAY!
OH, I FORGOT. NO TEST TOMORROW BECAUSE OF THE RUTH-&-NAOMI AUTUMN FETE.
YAAAY!!
HOLIDAYS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, IF ONLY SAMARITAN HAD BEEN AROUND IN THOSE CRUCIAL "B.C." YEARS.
SAMARITAN
HELP PRINT THE CATALOG - IT'S IMPORTANT!

MCC Meets in City Hall

Starting on Easter, Manchester City Hall in Manchester, England, becomes home to two MCC's: the Manchester City Council and Metropolitan Community Church.

This marks the first time that MCC has met regularly in a city hall anywhere in the world.

The first worship service will be held there on Easter Sunday. The Manchester City Council agreed in mid-March to let MCC Manchester begin meeting in the City Hall, said Mr. Paul Scroxton, coordinator of Outreach Ministries, a special project of UFMCC in the United Kingdom. Mr. Scroxton also pastors MCC Manchester.

"Meeting in City Hall creates a neutral ground where people will feel free to come," Mr. Scroxton said. He expects the new location will help the church meet its goal of reaching the entire lesbian and gay community.

The church will begin meeting in a committee room that holds 40 people, but the City Council granted use of larger rooms as the church grows. About 20 people currently attend the church.

MCC Manchester is in the process of applying for New Work status from the European North Sea District. ❐

Positions Available

▼ **MUSICIAN ADMINISTRATOR WANTED:** MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is receiving resumes to fill its permanent music position(s). The church is open to the possibility of a multi-talented person to serve as Program Director, Organist and Chancel Choir Conductor or to dividing these responsibilities into two part-time positions such as a Program Director/Choir Conductor and an Organist. In addition to the Chancel Choir, the music program currently includes an Instrumental Ensemble, Handbell Ensemble, a Gospel Choir and a Vocal Ensemble, each of which has a volunteer Conductor or Director. Send resume to: Rev. Nancy Radclyffe, MCC Toronto, 115 Simpson Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4K 1A1. ❐

Around The Fellowship

Praises

Rev. Rusty Carlson, who was elected pastor of **Emmanual MCC** in Spokane, WA, in January, has been named to a newly created Human Rights Commission in Spokane. "This is a mind-bender for such a thing to happen in Spokane," she said. For the first time ever, the local police approached Rev. Carlson to help find ways to improve communication between the police and gay and lesbian community of Spokane.

Tree of Life MCC is forming in Ann Arbor, MI. It is a parish extension of **Good Samaritan Parish MCC** in Toledo, OH. The church's first official service will be April 5.

Rev. Joseph Totten-Reid, pastor of **MCC Santa Barbara**, CA, received a community service award from the Greater Santa Barbara Community Association, a charitable business and professional association for gay men and lesbians. Rev. Totten-Reid started a Christian support group for gay men, called "Fairy Bears," and helped coordinate Santa Barbara's first interdenominational AIDS service in 1991.

Rev. June Norris, pastor of **Church of the Holy Spirit MCC** in Des Moines, IA, is listed in the forthcoming Fourth Edition of *Who's Who in Religion*, as well as in *Who's Who in American Christian Leadership*, published in 1989.

Rev. Randy Lester, pastor of **MCC San Luis Obispo**, CA, reports that the church received 11 into its founding membership in January. ❐

Prayers

The father of **Rev. Bonnie Daniel**, Mid-Central District Coordinator, died on March 10. Rev. Daniel left the General Council meeting early to attend his funeral on March 16.

The father of **Rev. Jodi Safier** of Clearlake, CA, died on Feb. 15.

The mother of **Rev. Grant Ford**, pastor of **Church of the Holy Spirit MCC** in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, died in February.

The mother of **Rev. Lisetta Thomas**, pastor of **River City Living MCC** in San Antonio, TX, died February 15.

Rev. Larry Dunlap is recuperating after being hospitalized with pneumonia in mid-February. He is associated with **MCC Long Beach, CA.**

Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey's spouse, Jane, had a biopsy in early March which came back benign. She has been struggling for the last several years with Cushing's syndrome.

Rev. June Norris, pastor of **Church of the Holy Spirit MCC** in Des Moines, IA, visited her sister in Denver, CO, in early March because her sister was in critical condition following a cerebral hemorrhage. ❐

Transitions

Rev. Lupe Martinez of Oakland, CA, was appointed founding pastor of a new MCC church in Burlington, VT, by the Northeast District Committee.

Rev. Thomas Gashlin has been appointed as the first full-time pastor of **MCC Panama City**, FL.

MCC Tampa, FL, has hired student clergy **Andy Sidden** as a full-time paid pastoral assistant in January. Mr. Sidden has served as the church's deacon coordinator for two years and student clergy for four years. Before that, he served on the board of directors and as editor of the church newsletter.

Rev. Bob Cunningham was installed recently as interim pastor of **MCC of Santa Rosa**, CA. The church is also changing its name to **New Hope MCC.**

Rev. Lynn Guerra resigned after nearly 10 years as pastor of **MCC Charlotte**, NC.

Mr. Jim McGuirk resigned after almost two years as pastor of **MCC of the Siskiyous** in Medford, OR, effective Jan. 1. ❐

Top Twenty Tithes - Feb. 1992

1.	MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN$	3,885.50
2.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	US$	2,344.74
3.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		1,961.48
4.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		1,944.90
5.	First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS		1,520.53
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		1,229.20
7.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,200.08
8.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL		1,110.57
9.	River City MCC, Sacramento, CA		1,031.96
10.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL		1,024.80
11.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		963.90
12.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		840.34
13.	Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		753.89
14.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		747.57
15.	All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN		743.82
16.	MCC New York, New York, NY		668.17
17.	Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA		586.91
18.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		580.21
19.	MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT		563.72
20.	MCC Key West, Key West, FL		556.68

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters}

Top Twenty Per Capita - Feb. 1992

1.	MCC Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY	US$	39.00
2.	MCC of the Disciples, Washington, DC		35.64
3.	Calvary MCC, Redwood City, CA		35.37
4.	MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA		33.56
5.	Eternal Light MCC, Olympia, WA		31.84
6.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		27.76
7.	Sisterspirit, Portland, OR		25.19
8.	MCC Hartford, Hartford, CT		23.30
9.	Redeemer MCC of Flint, Flint, MI		21.64
10.	MCC Rockville, Rockville, MD		21.44
11.	Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL		21.42
12.	MCC Living Spring, Eureka Springs, AR		19.97
13.	MCC Boston, Boston, MA		18.60
14.	MCC Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara, CA		18.44
15.	Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA		18.40
16.	Christ the King MCC, Oklahoma City, OK		18.26
17.	Vision of Hope MCC, Lancaster, PA		17.58
18.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		17.03
19.	MCC Johnson County, Lenexa, KS		16.51
20.	All Saints MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA		16.42

TV Talk Shows Host UFMCC Leaders

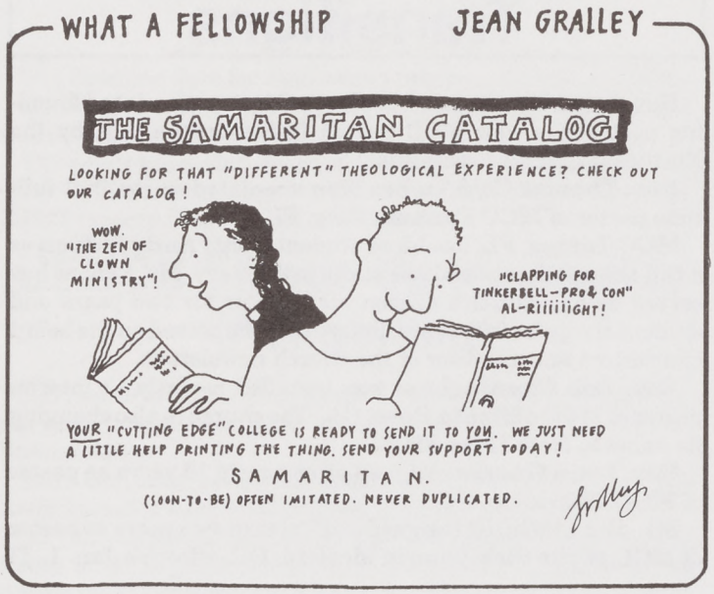
Several national television talk shows in the United States featured UFMCC over the past month or so.

Rev. Larry Whitsell, pastor of Diablo Valley MCC in Concord, CA, was a guest on the Phil Donahue show. The topic was "Measure M," a Concord city ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and other factors. Rev. Whitsell said the Traditional Values Coalition put a proposal on the ballot to remove sexual orientation from legal protection. The proposal passed by 43 votes. The Donahue show also featured a local activist, two opponents of gay and lesbian rights, and "Sadie Sadie the Rabbi Lady," a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a political street theater group.

Mr. Tony Shives, a member of MCC Ocean of Life in Costa Mesa, CA, appeared on another Donahue program with his fiancee', Therese Rodriguez, and her mother, Mary Ann Millard. The topic was "My husband-to-be is a transsexual and my mom thinks it's great." The show was taped via a satellite hook-up with Mr. Shives hospital bed in Detroit, MI, where he was undergoing surgery for female-to-male gender reassignment. "At the end of the show, Donahue gave Therese a ticket to visit me in the hospital," Mr. Shives said. Their story was also told in the March 17 edition of *National Enquirer*. The couple plans an April wedding at MCC Ocean of Life.

Rev. Jane Carl, MCC Ocean of Life co-pastor, appeared in the audience of a Montel Williams show on transsexuals.

Rev. David Deppe, pastor of Holy Covenant MCC in Hinsdale, IL, and two of his children were seen on Oprah Winfrey's Feb. 24 talk show on lesbian and gay people in heterosexual marriages. They were part of a specially invited audience. ❐


WHAT A FELLOWSHIP
JEAN GRALLEY
THE SAMARITAN CATALOG
LOOKING FOR THAT "DIFFERENT" THEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE? CHECK OUT OUR CATALOG!
WOW. "THE ZEN OF CLOWN MINISTRY"!
"CLAPPING FOR TINKERBELL—PRO & CON" AL-RIIIIIIGHT!
YOUR "CUTTING EDGE" COLLEGE IS READY TO SEND IT TO YOU. WE JUST NEED A LITTLE HELP PRINTING THE THING. SEND YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!
SAMARITAN.
(SOON-TO-BE) OFTEN IMITATED. NEVER DUPLICATED.

Week of Fellowship Planned

"Many Voices, One People," a week of fun, worship and fellowship for everyone in UFMCC, will be offered July 5-10 on a beautiful Minnesota lake.

The camp is sponsored by the Mid-Central District Department of People of Color/White People Healing Racism.

The camp will feature worship and such recreational activities as fishing, canoeing, swimming, sunning on a beach, nature walks, softball, and volleyball. In addition, there will be workshops on topics such as theology of AIDS; Black/womanist, Hispanic/*mujerista* and Asian American theologies; a liberation model for doing lesbian and gay male theology, and UFMCC and the blending of many voices. Scheduled speakers include Rev. Steve Pieters, Rev. Sandra Robinson, and Rev. Elder Don Eastman.

The camp will be held at Pilgrim Point Camp on Lake Ida in Minnesota. "Many Voices, One People" is being coordinated by Ms. Carmen Valenzuela and Mr. Stephen Harvey.

For more information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to "Many Voices, One People," c/o All God's Children MCC, 3100 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55407. ❐

(First Readings...cont'd from page 3)

to contribute); i) Clergy or Laity (reflecting our commitment to the priesthood of all believers), and j) Theological Diversity (acknowledging the spiritual diversity within the Christian faith).

▼ 92.03.CP.05 - First Reading: Moved that Division meetings are closed to non-Division members except by invitation of the Division.

▼ 92.03.CP.16 - First Reading: Moved that if someone appointed by the Elders and approved by the General Council is unable to accept the appointment, the Moderator of the Board of Elders may make a substitute appointment, that person to serve until the appointment can be approved by General Council at its next meeting.

▼ 92.03.GC.05 - First Reading: Moved that Policy B.102.b. have added after "lay delegate(s)" the words "and Senior Pastor's" so that it reads: "Any church in arrears on tithes or assessments due the UFMCC, Board of Pensions (USA), or District shall be denied its lay delegate(s) and Senior Pastor's vote at the District and/or General Conference unless a written mutual agreement is in effect for the amount in arrears. The determination of past due tithes shall be made on the basis of most recent financial records available from the UFMCC, District, and Board of Pensions."

▼ 92.03.GC.13 - First Reading: Moved to receive, the proposed advertising policy for *Keeping in Touch*.: "Any individual, local church, or organization may buy a classified advertisement in *Keeping in Touch*. Ads must still follow this editorial policy and undergo review by the Editorial Board. Proposed rate structure: Classified ads are accepted at the rate of $15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words over 25 are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. Because *Keeping in Touch* is the UFMCC newsletter, it will also carry advertisements for goods or services offered by Church Services. These ads will appear at the discretion of the Editorial Board, based on space available in *Keeping in Touch* and the need to promote particular items."

▼ 92.03.GC.22 - First Reading: Moved that the first Sunday in October of each year be designated as Fellowship Sunday. ❐

1993 March on Washington

The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation will be held the weekend of April 25, 1993.

Dr. Chip Wells of Washington, DC is the official UFMCC delegate to the National Steering Committee. ❐